

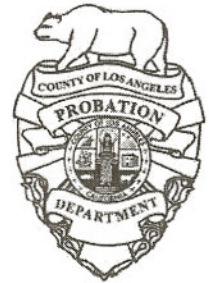


ROBERT B. TAYLOR
Chief Probation Officer


COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY — DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242

(562) 940-2501



June 19, 2008

TO: Each Supervisor
FROM: 
Robert B. Taylor
Chief Probation Officer

SUBJECT: **DEVELOPMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION REFORM PLAN
FOR JUVENILE HALLS & CAMPS – FINAL PROGRESS REPORT**

Pursuant to your Board's June 19, 2007 instruction, this is our sixth 60-day progress report covering mid-April 2008 through mid-June 2008, regarding the development of a comprehensive plan to dramatically reform education programs in the County's juvenile halls and probation camps.

Over the past 12 months, we have worked on this endeavor with the Los Angeles County Office of Education and representatives from the various departments and other agencies identified by your Board including additional key stakeholders from other departments and agencies that we deemed appropriate and that expressed an interest in this effort, who also comprise the Comprehensive Education Reform Committee.

This progress report provides an overview of the Committee's work, presentations by three agencies to the Committee regarding various programs or their programs' successful outcomes, and information provided to Chief Executive Office representatives and your Justice, Education, and Children's Deputies. In addition, an update on the final draft report and recommendations is provided.

We now have a firm target date for presentation of the Committee's report to your Board – the Chief Executive Office indicates that this item is anticipated to be filed for your Board's July 29, 2008 meeting agenda. Consequently, unless otherwise instructed, this is our final 60-day progress report on this matter. However, because of the intrinsic value that has resulted from our working group meetings and interest in this endeavor, it is our intent to have continued periodic Committee meetings on the delivery of education services to our youth.

PROGRESS STATUS OVERVIEW

During this reporting period, I chaired four Committee meetings, for a total of 19 Committee meetings held thus far. These Committee meetings continue to create

constructive, open discussions regarding ways to improve the educational services that we provide to the minors in our juvenile camps and halls.

We have now finalized the substantive issues of the report and the preliminary draft implementation action plan. In addition, representatives of LACOE and Probation have agreed in principle to a draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) to consolidate existing memoranda of understanding between the two agencies into one agreement that reflects the recommendations in the draft education reform report. In addition, these representatives have also developed a draft "report card" that will be used to inform your Board and the Los Angeles County Board of Education of our quarterly progress on implementation of the recommendations, if approved by your Board.

16th, 17th 18th, & 19th COMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

On April 21, April 30, May 19, and June 12, we held our 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th Committee meetings, respectively, to primarily discuss and consider:

- Recent revisions to the recommendations as identified by LACOE;
- Progress of LACOE-Probation collaboration efforts and the development of the draft LACOE-Probation MOU;
- Draft, preliminary implementation action plan; and
- LACOE's restructuring of the curriculum at Juvenile Court and Community Schools.

In addition, we received three presentations by:

- The Director of Education of Aviva Family and Children's Services on their successful outcomes for adjudicating youth in a non-public school's specialized setting;
- The Project Director of LA Works, who provided an overview of the California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention Program (CalGRIP) at Camps Afflerbaugh and Paige; and
- The Head Deputy, Collaborative and Restorative Justice Services, Public Defender's Office on career technical education and vocational education programs at Camp Miller as well as Project Youth Embrace at Camps Scott and Scudder.

On June 6, 2008, we received some additional input from LACOE regarding the latest draft version of the education reform documents, and have been in close communication with them in an effort to address their concerns.

OVERVIEW PROVIDED TO CEO AND BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

As indicated below, during this reporting period, I provided an overview of the report and recommendations to CEO and Board representatives:

- On June 9th, I provided an overview of the report to CEO representatives as well as your Justice, Education, and Children's Deputies. There was significant discussion and inquiries primarily centered around any remaining LACOE issues and concerns. It was evident that a subsequent meeting would be necessary to respond to additional concerns.
- In follow-up to the June 9th meeting, on June 16th, I met with the CEO and Board representatives to provide additional information and to discuss LACOE's recently identified concerns. As a result of that meeting, additional discussions are underway with LACOE to ensure that all issues and concerns have been fully resolved and that the necessary revisions to the documents are made, which is anticipated to occur by the end of next week for resubmission to the CEO.

UPDATE OF FINAL REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS

As indicated above, we are working with LACOE representatives to address some recently identified concerns. With the exception of a few impending minor editing revisions to the Committee's report, there is consensus on all 35 recommendations developed by the Committee. In addition, I will be presenting the final draft report to LACOE's Board at their July 15th meeting. Consistent with the CEO's anticipated target Board meeting date, it is my desire to present the final Committee's report to your Board on July 29, 2008.

Please contact me if you have any questions or require additional information, or your staff may contact David M. Davies, Chief Deputy, Probation at (562) 940-2511.

RBT:dn

c: Michael Nash, Presiding Judge, Juvenile Court
William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Doyle Campbell, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Raymond G. Fortner, Jr., County Counsel
Dr. Darline P. Robles, Superintendent, Los Angeles County Office of Education
Rudell S. Freer, President, Los Angeles County Board of Education
Clay Hollopeter, President, Probation Commission
Margaret Todd, County Librarian
Dr. Marvin J. Southard, Director, Department of Mental Health
Cheryl Mendoza, Executive Director, Children's Planning Council
Jose Huizar, Chair, Los Angeles County Education Coordinating Council
Trish Ploehn, Director, Department of Children and Family Services
Nikki C. Friedman, Chair, Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury
Justice, Education, and Children's Deputies